

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

## Moving Forward In 2021 By Gene Schadler, Superintendent

The new year provides the opportunity to look ahead to our goals for the future and look back at 2020 with the many changes and struggles that we endured from operational changes to the human level of continuing psychiatric rehabilitation during COVID-19. When the pandemic started in March, I remember hearing people say that we will not be the same at the end of this experience. We see countries, communities, families and individuals that have been impacted by this experience. At Evansville State Hospital we continue to maintain our protocols to mitigate our risk. As we have endured this long process with the normal fatigue response, we continue our efforts knowing that our priority is keeping our patients and staff in a safe environment. To all staff, I applaud your efforts and ongoing work as we provide psychiatric treatment.



Even during this experience, the Evansville State Hospital continues our efforts with the State Psychiatric Hospital Network to integrate processes. There have been multiple changes in the past including the adoption of our electronic medical record, Cerner. Moving forward in 2021, we will continue to address assimilation with our new lab vendor, Quest, incorporation of Trauma Informed Care at all hospitals, and standardization of organizational charts. Likewise, we will work towards target goals to decrease the admission wait list and continue to standardize our staff trainings. Never in the 130 years of Evansville State Hospital have the hospitals been this closely aligned. This focus will continue to provide more efficient service as we streamline services for our patient population and the communities in Indiana.

### Welcome New Employees

- Krista Brune, Nursing Service*
- Brittavia Dodson, Nursing Service*
- Markia Haskins, Nursing Service*
- Jordan Edlin, Nursing Service*
- Calisa Floyd, Nursing Service*
- Sara Gipson, Nursing Service*
- Quincy Irick, Nursing Service*
- Bruce McNeill, Physical Plant*
- Helen McWhirter, Nursing Service*
- James Morgan, Warehouse*
- Candace Parr-Lachney, Nursing Service*
- Eli Todich, Physical Plant*
- Virginia Valenzuela, Nursing Service*
- Cassandra Waugh, Nursing Service*
- Kiyona Williams, Nursing Service*

### Goodbye

- Kiona Alvis, Nursing Service*
- Jenna Capehart, Nursing Service*
- Diane Dabe, Nursing Service*
- Melany Goldstein, Nursing Service*
- Julia Hauser, Nursing Service*
- Diana Mills, Nursing Service*
- Journee Wallace, Nursing Service*
- Terry Wilson, Physical Plant*



### In Memory

*Linda Chandler*



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### Christmas Parties Bring a Bit of Normalcy

By Theresa Arvin, Community Services Director

“Blast this Christmas music. It’s joyful...and triumphant!” says “The Grinch” in the popular movie “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. Christmas could not be stopped in Whoville and was not stopped at ESH this year, even during a pandemic. Thanks to dedicated staff, donors and Christmas sponsors, our patients took part in unit parties with Christmas caroling, gifts to open, treats to enjoy, and fun activities. The unit parties were held in the main dining room like in year’s past bringing a bit of normalcy to the holiday season.

Everyone was glad to gather together with their peers for the festivities. Patients received warm sweatsuits and winter apparel along with fleece and plush blankets, many homemade in unique and pleasing patterns. Patients stayed busy over the weekends with new playing cards, games, adult coloring and art materials and puzzle books.

A special thank you to our committed groups who weren’t allowed to visit but dropped off food and gift items—Evansville East Side Lions Club, North Woods Church, Oak Hill Baptist Church, Friends of ESH, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Fairlawn United Methodist Church, St. Benedict Cathedral’s St. Vincent DePaul Society, and Southwestern Indiana Building Trades Council. Virtual greetings by several groups came in and were included in the annual holiday variety show “Comfort & Joys” which was recorded and played on unit TV’s for all to watch and enjoy. It was great seeing your faces, even behind a mask. The patients truly miss you all!



*Santa, a.k.a. employee Andrew Hartmann, leads the caroling at the parties.*



*Staff from Stoll, Kennnon, and Ogden drop off gift items and party foods that included sweatshirts, t-shirts, pajamas, house shoes, watches, personal care items, ethnic hair oils, detergent, playing cards, coloring books, composition books, puzzle books, crayons, markers, wrapping paper, Little Debbie Snacks and Chester’s puff corn.*



## Grant Provides Library Materials to Advance Racial Equity



The hospital was recently awarded an Advancing Racial Equity Collection Development grant to provide books and materials related to issues of race, diversity and inclusion. Grant money was used to purchase new items that included 14 educational DVD's, 5 movies, 4 graphic novels, and 20 non-fiction and 14 fiction books. This program has been made possible through a grant from Indiana Humanities with funds from Lilly Endowment Inc.

The book selection is a nice enhancement to our current supplies in the library. Used in weekly programming, the library has a large selection of choice with over 2,600 books in a variety of formats (over sized books, large print, books on tape), magazines, and 1,600 DVD's. Some of the classes held in the library involve reading the newspaper to keep abreast of current events and local and national news, a book club, and discussion groups. Librarian Kelly Kissel teaches and encourages patients to utilize community libraries to save money with access to a computer for internet use, minimal cost for copies of needed documents, and an economical leisure hobby.

## Christmas Parties Bring a Bit of Normalcy (Continued) By Theresa Arvin, Community Services Director

Even though the Christmas Gift Lift Program was offered differently this year, faithful community sponsors responded by dropping off unwrapped gift items and sent store gift cards and monetary contributions so that those special requested gift items could be purchased such as a guitar capo, Superman tee, hair turbans, jeans, and cargo pants. Hats off to those sponsors who called and helped to fill the wish lists with ball caps, body spray, house shoes, and watches. Employees from Stoll, Kennon, and Ogden made ESH their holiday project this year adding a considerable variety of gift items and party treats.



Staff members Theresa Arvin, Deacon Dennis Hilderbrand, & Kathi Goen involve the patients in a Price Is Right game during the holiday parties.

Because of your contributions this year and in previous years, no gift wrap supplies were purchased as we had plenty of new and gently used gift bags, boxes, tissue and paper. A heartfelt thanks to volunteers Carman Kercher and Doris Ragle who worked in Community Services over the past two months keeping up with the gift wrapping and helping with holiday preparations.

The Christmas Store in November raised \$1,103.50 for the Patient Recreation Fund. The fund provides for canteen snacks for indigent patients, off-campus trips, and special entertainment and supplies for hospital-wide patient events. Donations for the Patient Recreation Fund can be sent in care of Community Services.

### Current Needs:

- Yarn (white & light blue)
- Medium sized duffel bags
- Stationery sets
- Gift cards for Sally Beauty (to purchase hair products)



\*Contact Community Services at 812-469-6800, ext. 4972 if you can help.

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*COMMUNITY CONNECTION is published every other month for friends of Evansville State Hospital. News items are welcome and should be submitted to the Community Services Office.*

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## State Employees' Community Campaign

The 2020 – 2021 SECC theme, “It Starts WithIN,” shined a light on the Hoosier heroes working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. FSSA’s goal of raising \$160,000 in pledges was surpassed with the help of ESH employees pledging over \$8,000 to their favorite charities. Donuts donated by the local Donut Bank Bakery helped kick-off the campaign in September. Activities over the past three months at ESH included an unusual pet photo contest, coin collection, cook-off calendar & candy bar sale, pre-ordered cookie trays/pies, and collection of perishable items and needs for a local food bank and animal shelter. Campaign committee members were creative in ways to draw staff attention and support to the campaign during the pandemic such as pirating for coins wearing pirate masks in the staff parking lot. 2020-21 committee members were Janetta Skelton, Buff Wallace-Fallen, Lori Ellerbrook, Michelle Martin, Theresa Arvin, Angie Paul, and Elisa Phillips.



Employees Janetta Skelton, Angie Paul, and Carrie Marrett display the food collection for Harvest Time Ministries.



SECC committee members Lori Ellerbrook and Michelle Martin assemble donations for Warrick Humane Society.